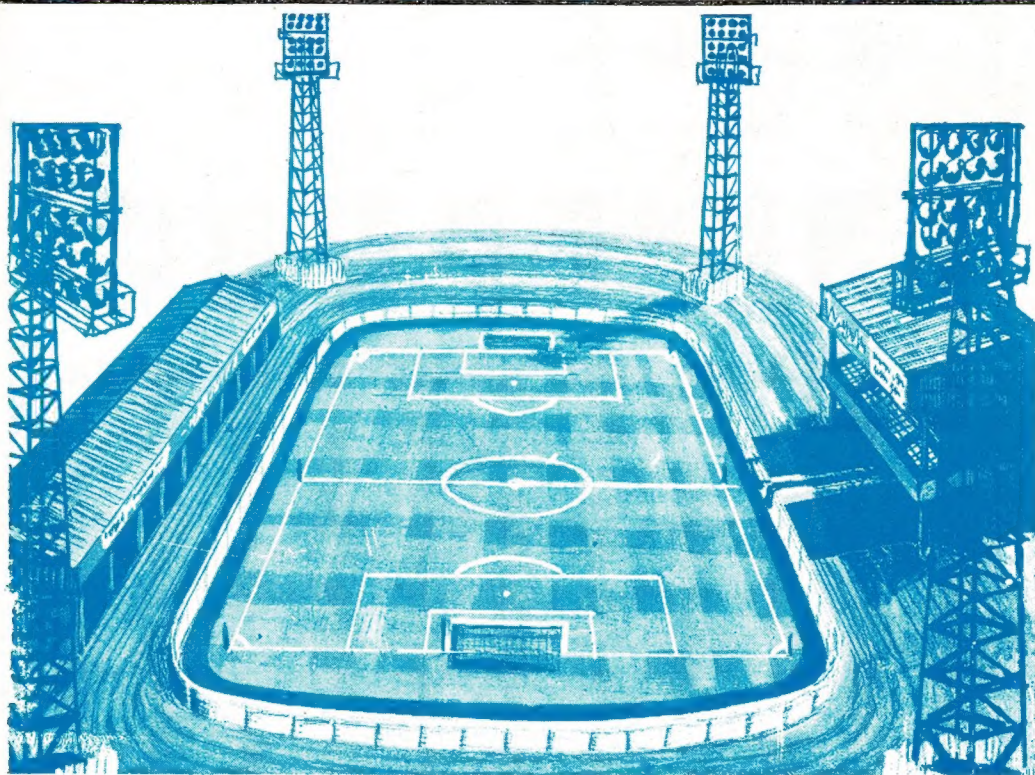


ATHLETIC

WIGAN

OFFICIAL MATCH PROGRAMME 15p



FOOTBALL LEAGUE CUP — 1st ROUND — 2nd LEG

v.

TRANMERE ROVERS

Wednesday, 16th August, 1978

Kick-off 7-30 p.m.

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Dr. G. MENON

OUR VISITORS

TRANMERE ROVERS, our first ever visitors to Wigan in a competitive Football League competition are very welcome opposition tonight.

Tranmere were founded in 1883 and play at Prenton Park, Birkenhead, their club colours are White shirts and Royal Blue shorts. In the early part of this century they played in the Lancashire Alliance and later the Lancashire Combination. In 1909 they won the Liverpool County Cup.

When the Football League Division 3(N) was formed in 1921, Tranmere were one of the originals. 1938 saw them gain promotion as Champions of the 3rd (N) and they went into Division 2.

When the League formed four Divisions in 1957 they were in Division 3.

Tranmere Rovers have produced many great players, Dixie Dean, Pongo Waring, Bill Ridding, Ellis Rimmer, Tommy Jones and many more.

John King, their present Manager, was a player with Wigan in the early seventies.

We welcome their Directors, Officials and Players to Springfield Park tonight for what we hope will be an enjoyable game.

The score after the first leg played at Tranmere last Saturday, stands at Tranmere 1, Latics 1. Scorers : McCauley (85 minutes) for Tranmere and Gore (90 minutes) for Latics. Attendance : 4,402.

A word from the Manager

GOOD EVENING. I welcome each and everyone of you to Springfield Park this evening in our first competitive game as members of the Football League.

We now have the opportunity we have always wanted and we will do everything in our power to maintain a high standard both on and off the field.

Most of our players you will know from last season, but our six new lads—I will give you a brief resume:

KEVIN SMART, age 19. Signed from Plymouth Argyle. Born in Newcastle. Kevin spent three years with the West Country side and made 42 appearances. Kevin is a very aggressive, determined full-back and should do well at Wigan.

NEIL DAVIDS, age 22. Signed from Swansea City. Neil is the ex-Leeds and Norwich centre-half and looks to have an excellent future at Wigan. He has been most impressive in pre-season workouts. Very solid defender.

ALAN CROMPTON, age 20. Signed from Blackburn Rovers. Alan has done extremely well so far and has forced himself into the side. Very determined front runner with good skills.

IAN PURDIE, age 25. Signed from Motherwell. A fast, elusive winger, Ian has already made himself a firm favourite with the Wigan supporters. Ian has Under-23 International Honours for Scotland.

IAN SEDDON, age 27. Signed from Rochdale. Ian has been unfortunate so far with a niggling muscle strain, but has great control and vision and his experience should stand him in good stead here at Springfield Park. Spent six years with Bolton.

GEOFF GAY, age 22. Signed for a trial period from Southport. Geoff was a regular with Southport last season. A versatile player, Geoff is also an ex-Bolton player. Due to injury he has been unable to perform in the pre-season matches.

Trust everyone enjoys tonight's match.

IAN McNEILL,
Manager.

Forthcoming Fixtures

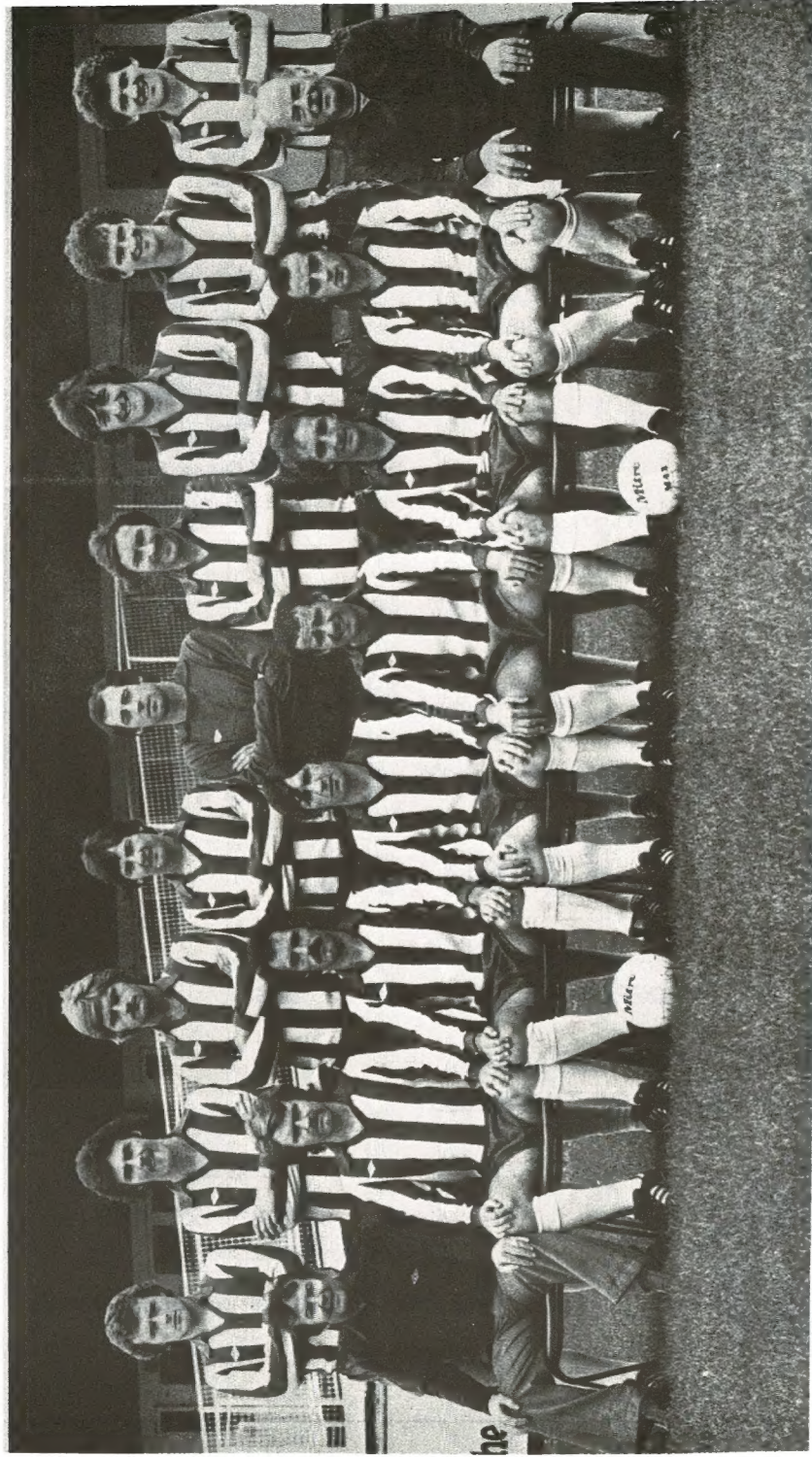
NEXT HOME MATCH

FOOTBALL LEAGUE — DIVISION 4

Wednesday, 23rd August, 1978

WIGAN ATHLETIC v. GRIMSBY TOWN

Kick-off 7-30 p.m.



WIGAN ATHLETIC A.F.C. — SEASON 1978-79

Back Row : K. SMART, P. HOUGHTON, N. DAVIDS, G. GAY, J. BROWN, F. CORRIGAN, N. WARD, J. HINNIGAN, J. WRIGHT
 Front Row : I. McNEILL (Manager), A. CROMPTON, I. SEDDON, T. GORE, I. GILLIBRAND, J. WILKIE, I. PURDIE, K. BANKS (Trainer)

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1978-79



LATICS LINE

by Nick Duxbury



Many Wigan Athletic fans will find it hard to keep back the emotion tonight as Latics finally make their home debut in competitive soccer as a Football League club.

The long awaited baptism of fire at Springfield Park has come at last and for those who followed Latics through the non-League wilderness, the League Cup first round, second leg, against Tranmere Rovers is the realisation of a dream.

After having knocked on the League door for so long, the news of Latics election must have hit even the most supreme optimist like a bomb and for some, the Club's new status still hasn't quite sunk in.

But new 'recruits' and long-standing fans alike have the chance to share a unique occasion tonight, at an August cup game which should provide something to remember for years to come.

For if ever there was an event to give weight to the "I was there" tag, tonight's game is it. An historic moment, not only for the Club, players and supporters, but the town as well.

Of course Latics have their League debut to come, along with a host of other 'firsts', but the battle with the Rovers, managed by former Latics player Johnny King, stands out as something extra special.

Tonight's momentous occasion does not make the result immaterial — Latics have to keep the 'floating' fans drawn by the game's novelty value and only a good performance will do that.

It may be easy to forget amid all the celebration that Latics are now earning their bread and butter among the big boys. It will be a hard slog, but hopefully a very rewarding one.

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Home and Away — read NICK DUXBURY in Wigan's own

Evening Post & Chronicle

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CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE

The 2nd June 1978, will always be a date remembered by Wigan Athletic fans, being the day when, after many years of frustration, we realised our ambition by being elected to Associate Membership of the finest League in the World, "The Football League."

The success of our application was due to many factors, including the efforts of our manager, Mr. Ian McNeill, the consistency of his playing staff, who by finishing runners-up in the NPL ensured our nomination for consideration for entry into the Football League, my fellow directors who spared no time or effort in making personal contact with all the 1st and 2nd Division clubs to canvass their support, and our secretary who made most of the arrangements for our many appointments.

When I was honoured by being asked to re-join the Board and become your Chairman again, I dared not envisage the success we would enjoy during my first year in office: a thrilling run in the FA Cup, runners-up in the NPL, winners of the Lancashire Junior Cup, and to cap it all, admission to the Football League.

We thank all, who by their support, enabled us to achieve League status, and assure them that we will do all in our power to uphold that support, and ensure that never again will the town of Wigan be without a League club.

I appeal to our supporters to give your Board of Directors, Manager and Playing Staff, your unstinted support, and present a good image to the football world by your good behaviour at all our matches, both home and away, and encourage our younger supporters to refrain from encroaching onto the playing area.

I am very proud to be your Chairman, I only wish that the stalwarts of years ago, too many to mention individually, could have been here tonight to witness the beginning of this, exciting era.

ARTHUR HORROCKS (Chairman).

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FOOTBALL LEAGUE CUP — 1st ROUND — 2nd LEG
WEDNESDAY, 16th AUGUST, 1978, Kick-off 7-30 p.m.

Line-up

WIGAN ATHLETIC

(Blue and White stripes)

- 1 JOHN BROWN
- 2 TOMMY GORE
- 3 JOE HINNIGAN
- 4 JEFF WRIGHT
- 5 NOEL WARD
- 6 IAN GILLIBRAND
- 7 FRANK CORRIGAN
- 8 ALAN CROMPTON
- 9 PETER HOUGHTON
- 10 JOHN WILKIE
- 11 IAN PURDIE
- 12 NEIL DAVIDS

TRANMERE ROVERS

(White shirts, Royal Blue shorts)

- 1 JOHNSON
- 2 MATTHIAS
- 3 FLOOD
- 4 PARRY
- 5 BRAMHALL
- 6 EVANS
- 7 PEPLOW
- 8 O'NEIL
- 9 MOORE
- 10 KERR
- 11 McCAULEY
- 12

Referee : Mr. C. L. NEWSOME (Broseley)

Linesmen :

Mr. G. BAILEY (Stockport) Red Flag
Mr. J. CONSTABLE (Blackburn) Yellow Flag

OPINION

by Harold Ashurst

Tonight sees the start of a new era of football in Wigan.

Since Latics were elected to the Football League in June many words have been written and spoken by a lot of people pointing out that it was time Latics were admitted and how well they would do now.



Well, now it is up to you, the fans, to put your support where your mouths are. When Latics were in non-league and cup-ties came around against Third and Fourth Division clubs they got invariably the best 'gate' of the round. Tonight Latics' opponents are from the Third Division and every match this season, cup-ties apart, will be against a Fourth Division club. If that does not guarantee support nothing does.

Latics' Chairman, Mr. Arthur Horrocks, has said that League Football must never be allowed to leave this town again. I am sure everyone connected with the town will back him up and come and cheer Latics on. Heaven knows, the whole town has campaigned long enough, and the honour is well deserved.

Of course the Club must do their part to keep the support, but fans should not start moaning if the team lose a couple, remember Rome wasn't built in a day and to progress will take time.

The people of Wigan deserve a Football League team and tonight's Football League Cup-tie against Tranmere Rovers should provide a fitting send off, irrespective of what happened on Saturday.

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The Wigan Observer

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Club Notes

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Today's Referee

BERT NEWSOME (Broseley, Shropshire), started refereeing whilst in the Army, then progressed through local Shropshire Leagues, Midland Intermediate and Central Leagues, to the Football League. Refereed the 1975 England v. Wales Youth International, and lined the France v. Spain International, in Paris, in 1961. Officiated in Italy for the Anglo-Italian competition and also at the Bayern Munich v. Anderlecht European Super Cup in 1976, and also England v. Wales Youth International.

He is a New Towns Information Officer and his interests are gardening, home decorating, cooking, antiques and most sports—but especially squash.

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